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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8366
INFO RUEHII/VIENNA IAEA POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0207
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA IMMEDIATE 0004
RUCNCAN/ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0043
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0455
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR ISN/RA A. STUKALIN AND IO/T H. VONBEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/19/2018

TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUN](#) [SY](#) [AF](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: IAEA BOG: CANADIANS OPPOSE SYRIAN BID, OPEN TO
AFGHAN OR KAZAKH MEMBERSHIP

REF: A. STATE 87744

[1](#)B. OTTAWA 1093

Classified By: PolMinCouns Scott Bellard, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C//Rel Can) At an August 19 follow-up to ref a demarche, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) Deputy Director for Non-Proliferation Craig Weichel confirmed DFAIT Assistant Deputy Minister Colleen Swords' assertion (ref b) that Canada would support Afghanistan over Syria in a race for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors' (BoG) Middle East and South Asia seat. The Canadian mission in Vienna has confirmed that the Afghans are indeed seeking the seat, but Weichel noted that Kazakhstan, which has a "solid non-proliferation record," is also considering a bid.

[1](#)2. (C//Rel Can) Weichel commented that Kazakhstan, unlike Afghanistan, has a nuclear industry and regulatory experience, and recently ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol. Due to the current uncertainty regarding who might run for the seat, he added, Canada had not yet decided formally whether to support Afghanistan or, perhaps, Kazakhstan. Weichel indicated, however, that "other more political considerations" might lead senior Canadian officials to support Afghanistan even if Kazakhstan decides to run. He emphasized that Canada remains firmly opposed to the Syrian candidacy, but has not yet decided whether, or to what extent, it might advocate on behalf of a candidacy by either Afghanistan or Kazakhstan.

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